

Politics matter to every state worker

Join us as we take action that affects our work, our families and our communities.

By Yvonne Walker, President, Local 1000

Every election season some members question why our union gets involved in politics. The answer is simple: Politics matter to every state worker. Elected state leaders have a direct impact on the wages and working conditions of state workers. And we support political leaders who support state workers.

The governor sets the budget and appoints the top officials in charge of most agencies where we work, as well as the head of the Department of Personnel Administration, which negotiates our contract. For our contract to take effect, the Legislature must pass a bill that is then signed by the governor.

So when election time comes, do we want to see more officials like Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who tried to cut our wages down to \$6.55 and use us as pawns? Or do we support candidates like John Chiang, who stood up to the governor and refused to carry out the wage cuts?

We need to elect legislators who value state employees and the services we provide. But we also need to defeat

elected officials who don't support labor and aren't willing to pass a budget that funds the state services we provide to keep California healthy, safe and strong.



Some politicians don't like it that thousands of working people can band together and make a difference in political races, so in 2005 the governor and his allies tried to weaken our power with Proposition 75. We won that fight, but we learned that we must remain united and vigilant and do what we can to elect state officials who will support a reasonable contract that includes affordable medical benefits and retirement security.

As part of the SEIU State Council, Local 1000 has decided to target several key legislative districts in order to support elected officials who will help us obtain a fair contract.

To learn more and take action on these important races and propositions, log on to seiu1000.org and click on the Political Action button.

Members step up to elect pro-state worker legislators

Members up and down the state are stepping up to support labor-friendly candidates in the upcoming election. In Stockton last week, Local 1000 members gathered at a phone-banking event to help elect Joan Buchanan(D) to Assembly District 15.

"It is vital to fill the Legislature with pro-state-worker representatives, because the Legislature & the governor are my employers," said Mary Ellen Lunn, a Special

Education Consultant for the California Department of Education, who made calls last week. "They are the ones who will be approving my contract."

"Politics is not a spectator sport. Voting is not enough."

— Mary Ellen Lunn, CDE

Assembly District 15 is one of 11 targeted districts that SEIU has identified as critical to building a

more pro-state worker Legislature. Lunn told Local 1000 she decided to take action because "politics is not a spectator sport. Voting is not enough."

Members will walk precincts and phone bank throughout the month of October right up to Election Day. For a complete list of SEIU-endorsed candidates, log on to seiu1000.org and click on the Political Action button.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

YOUR UNION CONTRACT PROTECTIONS

Article 10 – Health and Safety

Your union contract contains hundreds of provisions designed to protect the right of workers to safe and healthful working conditions. **Article 10 – Health and Safety** of your union contract gives you the right to:

- A safe and healthy working environment.
- Request an inspection of the worksite by making a complaint about unsafe or unhealthy working conditions to the Division of Occupational Safety and Health. DOSH will keep the name of the person who makes a complaint confidential.
- Form joint union-management health-and-safety committees in your department and serve on state time.
- Receive training in general safe work practices and specific training with regard to hazards unique to any job assignment.
- Be given information the employer has about potential health hazards of materials and chemicals a worker uses or may be exposed to.
- Refuse to perform work which would violate the labor code or a Cal/OSHA standard or order in which such violation would pose a real and apparent hazard to your health.
- See the employer's log of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, Cal/OSHA Form 200.
- Watch the employer monitor and measure harmful substances in the workplace that are subject to Cal/OSHA standards.
- Protective clothing to protect your clothing from damage or stains, and safety equipment such as goggles, helmets, safety harnesses and turnout gear.
- Training on infectious diseases.
- Precautions against exposure to the AIDS virus for Department of Corrections employees.

How to take Action

Contact your Local 1000 steward if you feel your rights have been violated. Your steward will work with you, management and your contract to determine the best course of action including whether or not to file a grievance. For more information regarding Article 10 – Health and Safety, review your contract by visiting www.seiu1000.org

Workers facing layoff to get earlier union representation

Our Master Table bargaining team came away with improved language on layoffs last Tuesday as we moved into a month-long break in negotiations.

“We’ll spend October and early November building pressure that will force the state to negotiate a fair contract.”

– **Cindie Fonseca**
Chair, Bargaining Unit 3

Both sides signed a tentative agreement that gives the union earlier access to layoff plans and lists of affected employees produced by the Department of Personnel Administration. Previously, Local 1000 received this information up to two months after employees received their notice of layoff, effectively preventing Local 1000 reps and stewards from giving immediate aid to employees.

“This is one of our biggest contract wins for our members,” said Cindie Fonseca, Bargaining Unit 3 chair. “Now we’ll spend October and early November building pressure that will force the state to negotiate a fair contract.” Bargaining is scheduled to resume in early November.

Keep up the pressure!

Demand a fair contract that values the state’s biggest resource - its employees! Call the governor at 916-445-2841 or Dave Gilb, Director of DPA, at 916-332-5193

“Value Us!”

We keep California healthy, safe & strong

Markus Linville

Department: Department of Corporations

Classification: Office Technician

What I Do: I scan and enter the information about the identities and licenses of franchise offers, securities sales, and investment advisors. I keep people - who invest their savings - from being harmed



“I make sure that stock offerings, franchise offers and investment advisors are licensed in California.”

What’s your Value Us! story? Go to seiu1000.org and click on the Value Us! link to tell us what you do and why it’s important to California.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL LOCAL 1000 TOLL FREE: **(866) 471-SEIU (7348)** or visit our website: www.seiu1000.org

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